

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. With the exception of the assembly area [See Enclosure (A)], the 26 Oct 51 maneuvers took place about one kilometer west of Brambach (5013N-1218E), across the Elbe, in the Lodderitz-Kuehnau forests south of the Elbe, and near Zerbst (5158N-1205E) north of the Elbe [See 00-K-201]. During the maneuvers the

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Commanding General of the 8th Guards Army, Genleit Goryachev inspected the 39th and 57th Guards Rifle Divisions. The 39th Guards and 57th Guards Rifle Division were the attacking (friendly) forces and the 21st Guards Mechanized Division was the defending (hostile) force.

2. I am unable to give the units of the 57th Guards Rifle Division or the 21st Guards Mechanized Division which participated in these maneuvers. However, [REDACTED] the 935th Separate AAA Battalion, I saw orders to the headquarters, naming the following units of the 39th Guards Rifle Division which I am sure participated in the maneuvers.

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112th Guards Rifle Regiment, Headquarters only (two battalions were on border duty)	About 30 men
120th Guards Rifle Regiment	About 1100 men
(?) (117th (65th) Guards Rifle Regiment	About 550 men
(?) Howitzer Regiment	About 250 men
(?) Artillery Regiment	About 200 men
15th HT-SP Regiment	About 100 men
(?) Separate AT Battalion	About 100 men
935th Separate AAA Battalion	About 1100 men
(?) Separate Signal Battalion	About 200 men
(?) Separate Motorcycle Battalion (rear units)	About 200 men
(?) Separate Engineer Battalion	About 200 men

I believe that the combined total strength of the 39th and the 57th Guards Rifle Division in the maneuver was about 6000 men. I can give no detailed information about the strength of the 21st Guards Mechanized Division, but I estimate that about 3000-4000 participated. The (?) Separate Battalion of the 39th Guards Rifle Division and the 67th Separate Engineer Battalion of the 57th Guards Rifle Division participated in the maneuvers. This unit had the same equipment as those engineer units in the 15 - 20 Jul 51 maneuvers. [REDACTED] At the time of the maneuvers I was [REDACTED]

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The 120th Guards Rifle Regiment, 39th Guards Rifle Division was on the right flank. The headquarters of the 112th Guards Rifle Regiment, 57th Guards Rifle Division, was on the left flank. I cannot identify any of the subordinate units of the opposing forces, the 21st Guards Mechanized Division.

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3. After one and one half days of loading and preparation, the 935th Separate AAA Battalion left Ohrdruf by truck at 1500 hours on 23 Oct 51. The unit arrived at the assembly area near Dessau at 1800 hours on the 24th. Within an hour all other units arrived in the assembly area. The time table

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for unit arrivals had been prepared by corps headquarters and was executed perfectly. The rifle regiments, the Howitzer Regiment, the Artillery Regiment, the Separate AT Battalion, and the Separate Signal Battalion came from Ohrdruf by truck. The 15th HT-SP Regiment, however, entrained at Ohrdruf, was shipped to Dessau, and then proceeded from there to the assembly area by organic transportation. I can give no details about the movement of units of the 57th Guards Rifle Division. I can give no unit locations in the assembly area.

4. The mission assigned to the 935th Separate AAA Battalion was to protect the 120th Guards Rifle Regiment from air attacks while it was moving, crossing the Elbe River and during the fighting on the other side of the river. The specific mission [redacted] was to cover the vanguard of the 120th Guards Rifle Regiment. The mission of the 39th Guards Rifle Division was to cross the Elbe, seize a bridgehead two and one half kilometers wide and five kilometers long and to hold it. After the 39th Guards Rifle Division had gained the bridgehead, the 57th Guards Rifle Division was to cross the river, engage in combat with the enemy and pursue him. In actuality, both divisions crossed the Elbe and pursued the retreating enemy (120th Guards Mechanized Division).
5. After assembly about 1800 hours on 24 Oct 51, the troops dug in, prepared guns for firing (no firing was done), camouflaged the guns, and then rested while the staff of the various units coordinated the plan of action. On the morning of 25 Oct 51 all units moved in trucks to within one kilometer of the Elbe. It took the entire day to move this distance of approximately 40 kilometers since there were stops for reconnaissance and security checks under simulated combat conditions. IL-2, MIG-8 and MIG-15 aircraft attacked at one time during the day and the AAA simulated firing action on the move. The troops rested all night in the jump-off area about one kilometer south of the Elbe.
6. At 0800 hours on 26 Oct 51 the Artillery Regiment, the Howitzer Regiment and the Separate AT Battalion commenced an artillery barrage directed across the river, while the 935th Separate AAA Battalion set up its antiaircraft guns and fired on aircraft. Simultaneously the engineer units of the 39th and 57th Guards Rifle Division built a pontoon bridge and the assault boats, each containing 20 men of the 120th Guards Rifle Regiment, began to cross the Elbe. The artillery barrage was stopped at 0900. At approximately 1000, riflemen of the 120th Guards Rifle Regiment began to cross the pontoon bridge which had been completed in about one hour. After the riflemen had crossed, two batteries of the 935th Separate AAA Battalion crossed with their 37 mm AA guns towed by trucks. [redacted] unable to give the sequence of units which followed. I am certain that no reserves, except for rear units, i.e. ordnance, truck repair, cooks, field kitchens, food supply, were left on the south side of the river. The 39th and 57th Divisions had seized a bridgehead two and one half kilometers wide and four kilometers deep by 1500 or 1600 hours, with the simulated combat firing. By nightfall the attackers had gained a further five kilometers. The battle was stopped at 2000 hours. After setting up defense and camouflage and preparing the guns for firing, the troops rested all night.

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7. At 0600 hours on 27 Oct 51, the battle was resumed. Once again aircraft attacked and were fired upon by the AAA batteries; the 39th and 57th Divisions again pursued the slowly retreating forces of the 21st Guards Mechanized Division. In an all-day battle the 39th and 57th Divisions gained about 10 km, thus moving north of Rosslau. Combat was stopped at 2000 hours and the troops rested all night.
8. At 0600 hours on 28 Oct 51, the battle began again. By 1600 hours the 39th and 57th Divisions had gained another five kilometers. At 1600 hours the maneuver ended and all units, both friendly and hostile, assembled in the woods. They remained here for two days, cleaning equipment, preparing for the return to stations and returning to stations. [REDACTED] 25X1X
9. Genmajor (fnu) Vedenin, Commanding General of the XXVIII Guards Rifle Corps was the Commanding General of all three divisions during the maneuver. I believe that Genleit Goryachev, Commanding General of the 8th Guards Army controlled the maneuver, but I am not certain of this. I don't know if any GOFG representatives were present or controlled any part of the maneuver.
10. On or about 3 Nov 51, Genleit Goryachev held a critique of the maneuver and praised the 39th and 57th Guards Rifle Divisions for doing a good job. He did not discuss any specific deficiencies but stated that officers had not reacted sufficiently fast in changes of plans, were afraid to make their own decisions and, in some cases, gave ambiguous orders. As a whole, he stated that the maneuver was a success. The 39th Division and the 21st Guards Mechanized Division passed inspection with good results.
11. During the maneuvers only the area two to three kilometers on either side of the Elbe was off limits to Germans. While no Germans were permitted to enter the assembly areas, they were not kept away from those areas in which Soviet troops conducted their mock battles. Individual soldiers were issued complete sets of wartime equipment and ammunition during maneuvers. The allowance for the maneuvers was 15 cartridges per rifleman, and five charges for each 37 mm AA gun. No smoke screens were used. Personnel participating were issued gas masks but they were never put on. Troops stayed overnight in the open with no tents. One blanket for each soldier was carried on trucks and issued every day before the nightfall. Except the day of the river crossing, food was cooked in field kitchens. On the day of the crossing the troops used the iron ration issued prior to the beginning of the maneuvers and which was carried as a part of the individual equipment of each soldier.

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Enclosure (A): 23 Oct - 1 Nov 51 Maneuver Area

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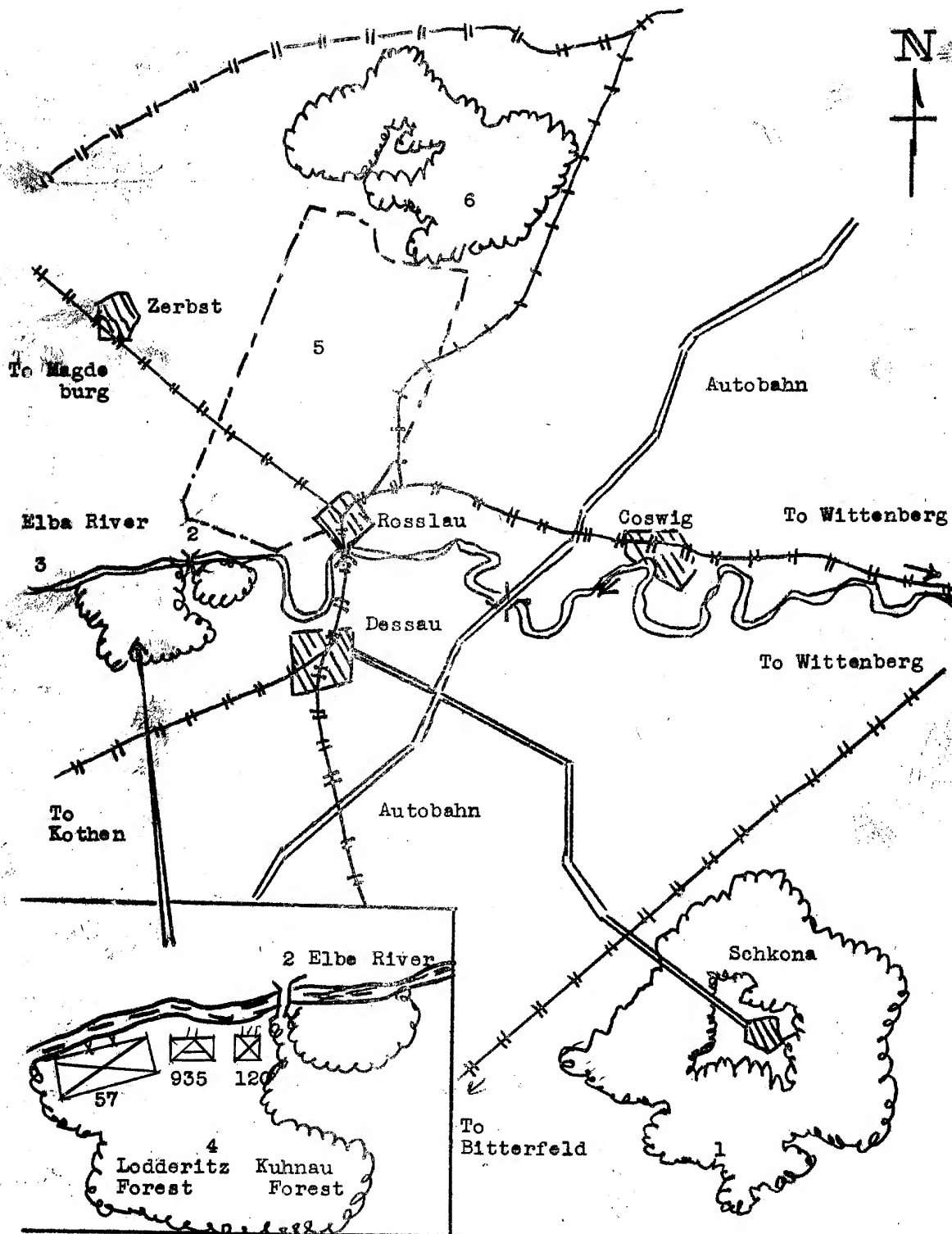
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23 Oct - 1 Nov 51 Maneuver AreaLegend

1. Initial assembly area, 39th and 57th Gds Rifle Divs
2. Crossing point
3. Elbe River
4. Jump-off area for attack by 39th and 57th Gds Rifle Divs
5. Area defended by 21st Gds Mecz Div and seized in mock battle by the 39th and 57th Divs on 26, 27, and 28 Oct 51
6. Nedlitz Forest: assembly area after maneuver for the 21st, 39th and 57th Divs.

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